



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

31 July 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF GRILL FLAME, SCIENTIFIC  
EVALUATION COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Initial Assignments

1. In accordance with our meeting at the Pentagon on 27 July, this memo confirms the assignments for draft write-ups of specific topics related to our evaluation task.

a. Dr. Tang - Discuss the general evaluation criteria for parapsychological research experiments, especially with respect to the contribution and limitation of statistical significance testing in phenomenological verification applications. (It would be desirable to attempt to relate this by example or otherwise to RV and PK evaluations.)

b. Dr. Cartwright and General Stahl - Discuss the applicability of the RV protocol and experimental procedures suggested by AMSAA to meet their stated objectives ("To develop and apply a methodology for quantitatively establishing the existence or non-existence of some form of psychic phenomena"). Indicate also the approaches which have been taken by AMSAA to improve on the SRI procedures and discuss further modifications which are required (especially in the selection of targets and assignment of judging procedures) in order to decrease or eliminate the uncertainties inherent in the proposed "matching" criteria.

c. Dr. Holloway and Dr. Montgomery - Discuss the program planned by MICOM and SRI to attempt the experimental observation of possible effects by a human subject on a random stream of electronic pulses. Include an assessment of: (a) the need and timing for replicating the SRI experiments at MICOM; (b) the instrumentation which is proposed; (c) the experimental procedures as currently planned; (d) the instrumentation calibration procedures; (e) the random source selections, etc. Recommend any modifications to the planned (SRI/MICOM) process and protocol which would further assure the credibility of the results within the context and limitations of a computer-based, "hands-off", experiment producing a random bit stream of pulses. IF following the above discussion it is concluded that the very concept of the planned experiment has an insufficient scientific basis or an unlikely practical significance, you are invited to recommend any appropriate departures and changes to the proposed experiments.

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d. Dr. Glansky - Discuss the likely limitations, significance and scientific merits for the results which are expected to be obtained under the following assumptions: (a) AMSAA's RV experiments are conducted as currently planned; (b) AMSAA's RV experiments are modified in accordance with recommendations in para b above; (c) MICOM/SRI PK experiments are conducted as currently planned; (d) MICOM/SRI PK experiments are modified in accordance with recommendations in para c above (retaining the current random bit stream concept); (e) (optional) a new basis for assessing PK effects is derived which is a major conceptual departure from current experimental plans. (I recommend that you coordinate with Dr. Montgomery and Dr. Holloway, if you want to anticipate possible approaches to more rigorous scientific procedures.)

e. Dr. Snyder - Discuss the RV experiments conducted by SRI during the past 6-7 years involving mostly coordinate cuing and "beacon" tracking targeting methods. Of particular interest is the inclusion of an evaluation of: (a) the contribution of this work to establishing the existence of the RV phenomena; (b) shortcomings in the protocol which tend to diminish credibility; (c) future benefits to be obtained by replicating the SRI procedures at SRI or elsewhere; (d) SRI's application and interpretation of statistical procedures in general, and particularly as they are being applied to the "search-type" problems utilizing sequential analysis.

2. I have appreciated very much your cooperation on our recent trip, and I am looking forward to receiving your draft material (typed or not) by mid-August. As we concluded in our final session, I will make an interim report of our work as it pertains to recommended changes in the AMSAA work, so that the benefits of the Committee's review can be implemented in a timely fashion. However, before I issue a memo placing a "hold" on AMSAA's experimental planning, I will attempt to coordinate with you by telephone. If I can be of any help to you between now and the meeting on 18-20 September, please get in touch with me.

Enclosure  
Updated List of  
Committee Members

  
MANFRED GALE  
Chairman